

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
BUREAU OF RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION"  
AND REFER TO

FILE  
RE: IK: rgr  
AND DATE OF THIS LETTER  
March 6, 1961

[redacted]  
Government Employees Health Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 463  
Washington, D. C.

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Dear [redacted]

At a recent meeting, our Regional Health Benefits Representatives reported that members of employee organization health benefit plans were in some instances having difficulty in making financial arrangements with hospitals. Their experience was that some hospitals were requiring members enrolled in employee organization plans to place substantial deposits or to pay the entire hospital bill and that these hospitals would not accept an assignment of benefits from the plan.

It was the consensus of the Health Benefits Representatives that the employee organizations could obtain cooperation from hospitals where problems of this nature existed, if they got in touch with the hospitals and provided them with information regarding their plan. Where plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program have taken such steps, the results have been uniformly good. In certain areas - San Francisco, for example - all hospitals in the area use the same admission plan which is usually established by a conference of the hospitals involved. In such cases, once an admission procedure has been agreed upon by the hospital conference, all participating hospitals will follow the same procedure. Where such a hospital group exists, and problems on admission occur, it would be desirable to get in touch with the group itself to make any necessary arrangements to facilitate admissions.

The responsibility for such contacts with hospitals is with the employee organization's health plan itself. The Civil Service Commission has no authority to require hospitals to accept assignments or to agree to other arrangements with plans and we do not intervene in relationships between plans and hospitals. However, we would be glad to help in anyway we can. If you believe we can be of assistance to you in connection with problems at particular hospitals, please let the appropriate Regional Health Benefits Representative know.

Sincerely yours,

*Andrew E. Ruddock*  
Andrew E. Ruddock  
Director